

Resource Management and Climate Protection Task Force
Minutes from the 10/21/10 Meeting

Next meeting: November 18, 2010, 3-5 pm
Location TBD

In attendance:

Pedro Gonzalez, South San Francisco City Council*
Deborah Gordon, Committee Chair, Woodside Town Council*
Brian Kimball, Ecology Action
Maryann Moise Derwin, Committee Vice Chair, Portola Valley Town Council*
Richard Napier, C/CAG
Alexis Petru, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)
Barbara Pierce, Redwood City Council*
Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council*
Michael Riordan, PG&E
Kim Springer, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)
Juda Tolmasoff, Aide to Supervisor Carole Groom
Lisa Wan, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)

Not in attendance:

Kari Binley, Sustainable San Mateo County
Bob Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Carole Groom, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA
Eric Sevim, A+ Japanese Auto Repair

*=Voting member

1) Introductions

2) Public Comment: There were no public comments.

3) Approval of Minutes: The committee approved August's meeting minutes: Gonzalez/Derwin.

4) Environmental Summit Proposal (Kim Springer): Staff presented a proposal to coordinate an Environmental Summit, a full-day event in late January with 10-minute presentations on a variety of San Mateo County environmental programs and initiatives (Energy Upgrade, Energy Watch, greenhouse gas inventories, etc). The Summit's aim would be to educate attendees about the county's current programs, as well as demonstrate the need to do more to fight climate change. Staff will also present the updated Energy Strategy.

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The committee discussed the proposal, agreeing that they liked the event's content, but wanted to shorten the event to a half-day event, recognizing city staff's limited time. They also wanted to be sure the event focused on take-away action items for the attendees and suggested finding a name for the event that reflected the action-oriented nature of the event. The committee wants to tie the event to the release of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and will discuss the event further at a future RMCP meeting. Staff will check with the cities' staff to determine what type of event and presentations would be useful to their work.

Staff will also arrange an update on the Sustainable Communities Strategy at a future RMCP meeting.

5) Update on San Mateo County Energy Watch: (Alexis Petru):

Staff presented charts showing the program's progress towards its energy-saving goals. Energy Watch is well on its way to meeting – and potentially exceeding – its kilowatt and kilowatt-hour savings goals for 2010. Staff is also making progress on meeting the program's therms-saving goals. Projects that reduce natural gas (therms) are expensive and can take a long time to implement.

Recent Energy Watch projects at cities include lighting retrofits at Redwood City's parking garages, server virtualization at South San Francisco and pool boiler replacements at Menlo Park. Energy Watch has also completed a number of lighting and refrigeration retrofits at non-profits throughout the county.

Staff introduced Lisa Wan, the new Energy Watch intern through the Americorps program. Ms. Wan will be benchmarking the buildings of all 20 cities, the County and other public agencies (SamTrans, etc.) during her year-long internship. Benchmarking is a way to compare a building's energy use to that of similar-sized buildings to identify opportunities for retrofits.

Energy Watch will be hosting a workshop, "Energy Efficiency as an Investment," for cities' finance managers on Tuesday, November 9, 11am – 1:30pm, at the San Carlos Library. The workshop aims to teach finance managers to evaluate energy-efficiency projects not by simple payback, but by their potential financial return. The workshop's speaker is Sam Pierce, who, during his time as mayor of Sebastopol, helped the City finance many energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects.

6) Update on BAAQMD Grant - Climate Action Plan Template (Alexis Petru): Staff finalized contracts with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for a \$50,000 grant to contribute to the development of a climate action plan (CAP) template and tool for San Mateo County cities. C/CAG will provide \$50,000 in matching funds for this effort.

The CAP advisory committee, made up of staff from five cities, recently selected a consultant, KEMA, to develop the template, list of climate action measures from which cities can choose for their CAPS and the calculations associated with these measures

(potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions, costs, etc.). These elements will be compliant with CEQA requirements for climate action plans.

Staff discussed the unique approach they are using for the CAP template. Measures that can be implemented locally will be included in the cities' individual CAP (transit-oriented development, local planning, etc.), while measures that are best addressed on a countywide scale will be incorporated into a countywide CAP to which the individual CAP can refer (electric vehicle infrastructure, public transportation etc.).

7) Review of Collaboration Section of San Mateo County Energy Strategy (Kim Springer): The committee discussed the Collaboration section of the Energy Strategy and discussed what information they would like to see in the updated Energy Strategy. The committee began by discussing collaboration between the cities and the utilities. They agreed that the RMCP and the Energy Watch program have created a better connection between the cities and PG&E, but they would be interested to see if PG&E could set up a regular notification process before carrying out projects in the cities. They were also interested in learning more about PG&E's plans to "underground" its utilities, so the city could coordinate "underground-ing" of all utilities at the same time, and Mr. Riordan said he would forward this question to Kathy Lavezzo.

The committee said that they would like to include, in the updated Energy Strategy, that we will continue to work with utilities to improve communication and that we will strive to expand the Energy Watch program.

The committee discussed the possibility of collaborating with PG&E on a pilot net metering project. Staff will check into the status of net metering legislation.

The committee asked staff to improve the chart comparing cities' energy use on page 35 of the Strategy. Cities with similar energy profiles have been collaborating on energy-efficiency programs – the High-End Homes program, which seeks to reduce plug loads in large homes in Hillsborough, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, is one example.

C/CAG has helped pool resources for the cities by identifying funding sources and bringing resources to the cities through staffing, Energy Watch and the Air District. Regarding collaboration with Joint Venture Silicon Valley, San Mateo County cities have joined Joint Venture Silicon Valley, and C/CAG has a contract with Joint Venture.

Staff will look through the Legislative Committee notes to see what energy- and water-related legislation C/CAG has supported.

8) Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be on November 18, the same day as the C/CAG Board meeting. Roseanne Faust from SAMCEDA will speak to the committee about green economic development in the county. Staff and the committee will decide if the RMCP meeting will be one-hour and in San Carlos to make it easier for committee members to attend both the RMCP and Board meeting.

9) Committee Updates

There were no committee updates.

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